

The crop of corn here is excellent, and the stock generally in good condition. The young Mule is the best I have ever seen. At the lower place, there is an abundant supply of corn, and I hope the cotton may reach two thirds of the crop of last year. The season however is late, and, I fear, it is materially injured by a severe, killing frost this week.

I would gladly avoid my trip to Caldwell. The road however is said to be good, and there is a bridge over the river, the swells in which have interrupted me more on this journey than ever before.

Adieu my dearest, and believe me ever truly yours. With my blessing, on our dear children. Adieu.

William A. Graham to Susan Washington Graham

A&H

Earhart Place
Nov. 2nd 1853

My Dear Wife

I am happy to say that I returned this afternoon, safe from Caldwell. I went on sunday to Newton, 17 miles, thence, on monday, crossing the Catawba on a Bridge at the Horse Ford, to Lenoir, the C.H. of Caldwell—after arriving in the County, I learned that I had been mistaken in the week of the Court, which by an act of the Legislature at the last session, had been placed a week later than formerly, and therefore does not come on till next week. I however proceeded on to the house of my friend, Maj. Miller, and from there to Lenoir. He had been kind enough to assume an agency for me in regard to the land I desired to sell, and went with me the next day to see it. The water power at Dudleys shoal is one of the most valuable I have ever seen and the place reminded me of the places above & below Trenton Falls, that you will remember near Utica N.Y. I, of course, did not sell, but my visit will be of service to the interests of those concerned in the land, & will I hope lead to a speedy disposition of it. I authorized Maj. Miller to sell the whole at an average of \$1. per acre, and he has no doubt of effecting a sale in a short time. After viewing the premises as well as our time would allow, I returned as far as the Bridge on the Catawba; and came from thence, breakfasting, at Newton today. I regretted not to find the Court sitting, as I hoped to meet many friends there, and learned, from Mr Jos. Norwood and others, that my coming was anticipated by a number who would go to the court with the expectation of meeting me. Mr N. has a very excellent farm and handsome situation near Lenoir. I found the road, in the whole, better than I expected, and the greatest part, a very good one for any country. I took with me from here the Boy John, who, though awkward, & not very spruce in his dress, was of considerable service. I went high enough to breathe the cool autumn air of the Blue Ridge & Table Rock, of both of which I had a very distinct view in the distance. My horses performed very well, with the exception of the new one's aversion to holding back steadily, on the steep mountains & hills. I desired to buy a horse for Robert's place, but was told they were as high in Caldwell as in the country below. So much for my journey.